

REVIEWS

Hong Kong Ferns, by M. L. So. 1994. Hong Kong Flora and Fauna Series, Urban Council, Hong Kong. ISBN 962-7849-02-2. HK \$90. 159 pp, paperbound.

Many of us probably have an image of Hong Kong as a concrete and steel metropolis. But, as we learn from this popular account of the ferns and allies of the area, this is far from correct. Dr. So treats 141 native and naturalized species, and a few cultivated ones (e.g., *Platycerium*), alphabetically by genus. For each species, and on one page, she gives the scientific and common names, habitat, a brief characterization, photographs of plant habit and soral details, and a scanning electron micrograph of a single spore. There are no keys, but there is a brief introduction to fern morphology and a glossary.

The only other recent treatment for the area is by H. E. Edie (*Ferns of Hong Kong*, 1978, Hong Kong University Press). Edie's book is a more comprehensive and detailed account (treating nearly 200 spp.), containing keys, distributions, and longer descriptions of the ferns only. Both books usually adopt the same nomenclature, but So's book omits about 50 of the rarer species. Names used by So are, for the most part, up-to-date, and follow Kubitzki (*The families and genera of vascular plants, Vol. 1. Pteridophytes and Gymnosperms*, 1990, Springer-Verlag, New York), with the exception of thelypteroid genera, for which Holttum's classification is used.

The color photographs of habit and sori are generally of good quality and helpful, and the format is pleasing. I recommend this book for interested lay and professional botanists alike, and for those wishing a supplement to Edie's book.—ALAN R. SMITH, University Herbarium, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720.

Flora of the Guianas, Series B, Fascicle 6: Dryopteridaceae, Nephrolepidaceae, Oleandraceae, Thelypteridaceae, by G. Cremers, K. U. Kramer, R. C. Moran, and A. R. Smith. 1993 [1994]. Koeltz Scientific Books, P.O. Box 1360, Koenigstein, Germany (for U.S. orders, write to R.R. 7, P.O. Box 39, Champaign, IL 61821). \$65.00. ISBN 1-878762-61-3. 126 pp., 1 map, paperbound.

This is the second fascicle to be published out of a total of nine that will account for all of the pteridophytes of the Guianas. Although dated 1993, according to the publisher the work was actually distributed on 4 March 1994, which is of importance because of the new species *Diplazium roraimense* Cremers & Kramer published on p. 31.

The keys to genera of the Dryopteridaceae (used in a broad sense to include Woodsiaceae and Tectariaceae) are suitable to the material at hand. The Guianas pteridophyte flora is not extensive, and most genera contain a far smaller number and percentage of species than occur in the montane floras of South

and Central America. *Cyclodium*, a genus of ten species, is an exception, with 60% of the species occurring in the Guianas.

In general, the authors hold to a conservative view of species, especially in *Triplophyllum funestum*, where several taxa described by R. E. Holttum in his monograph are synonymized without comment. Each accepted taxon has a brief synonymy (Guianan types and basionyms only), a short but diagnostic description, the general distribution, a citation of some or all specimens examined (depending upon number), and notes. A list of accepted taxa and an index to synonyms and names in notes concludes the volume. Many of the species are illustrated with unusually clear line drawings of diagnostic details.

The work appears quite complete, although species new to Guyana are now encountered fairly frequently as a result of recent collecting in the western uplands of the country, particularly by staff of the Smithsonian Institution's "Biological Diversity of the Guianas" Program.—DAVID B. LELLINGER, Department of Botany, MRC-166, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560.